Region, continue to spew thick smoke and discharge effluents severely polluting the environment; and

(b) if so, what action has been taken by Government to ensure that any lacunae in law is not invoked With impunity?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI Z. R. ANSARI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The State Governments have been asked to identify such industries in respect of which stringent steps could be taken under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986> which provide? for deterrent penalties in-cluding closure of polluting units and disconnection of water and electricity.

Directive to state Governments forimproving condition of AgriculturalLabour

447. SHRI RAM AWADHESH SINGH: SHRI RAM NARESH KUSHAWAHA:

Will the Minister of LABOUR ba pleased to state:

la) whether it is a fact that some time in 1982 Government had issuar1 a directive to all the State Governments to enact suitable legislation to improve the working conditions of the agricultural labour in the country;

(b) if *so* what percentage of the workforce was engaged in agricultural sector at the end of 1986; and

(c) what follow-up action has been taken for the enactment of legislation by the State Governments in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI P. A. SANGMA): (a) Due to absence of unanimity on the issue of having a Central law for agricultural workers, it was decided to leave it to the State Government to enac; a legislation for agricultural workers. The State Governments/ Union Territories were advised accordingly in 1932.

(b) Figures of 1986 are not available. However, as per the 1981 census, approximately 60.51 per cent of the workforce was engaged in agriculture.

(c) The Central Government has not received any information from the State Governments in this regard.

Simplification of Procedure relating to Import and Export

448 SHRI K. VASUDEVA PANICKER; Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a management study team of his Ministry has recently sub mitted a report on how to simplify procedure relating to import and ex port;

(b) if so, what are the delails the -reof; and

(c) what action has been taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. R. DAS MUNSHI): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) The Study Team has re< mended, *inter alia,* phased introduction of computerisation in certain functional areas, strengthening of existing counter assistance system and a facility of counter delivery of import licence; delegation of powers for is-sue of certain licences, setting up o* Regional Licensing Committees in respect of Advani and Supplementary Licences in more regional office-training programmes for personnel, strengthening the existing enforce ment machinery, improved coordinn-tion among various sponsoring autho rities etc.